



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail: calpeek@aol.com

VOL. XXIV
No. 4

JAN. 28, 2002

CAMPAIGN 2002: TERM LIMIT EXTENSION INITIATIVE LOSING IN NEW POLL, BUT LAW NEEDS TO BE FIXED

Editor's note: Normally there's a fairly good sized number of controversial initiatives on every Calif. ballot, but NOT in the March 5th primary. In fact, there's really only one hot initiative: **Prop. 45** to extend Calif.'s legislative term limits. Here's our update & analysis...

...Polling data first. In late December, the Field Poll released its data which showed Prop. 45 winning by a margin of 50% YES vs. 37% NO. However, only a very small percentage (11%) of those questioned knew anything about this controversial proposal. A much newer survey by the Public Policy Institute of Calif. (PPIC) now shows YES on Prop. 45 is at only 31% vs. 61% who are opposed...

...Prop. 45 would allow Assemblymembers two(2) more terms if they first collected signatures from 20% of those who voted in the last election in their AD. State senators would get one(1) more term under this proposal. This all assumes these lawmakers would then be able to win a party primary. Some insiders who don't like term limits and think it needs an overhaul, nevertheless say this is a dumb way to fix the law, which was passed in 1990 as **Prop. 140**. "It's too cute," said one **Calpeek** source. In other words, says another source, if chief Prop. 45 supporter John Burton(D) doesn't like the law, get rid of it completely OR even out the terms without any of the signature BS...

...There are several problems with legislative term limits:
1) It's a slap in the face to those people who dedicate their lives to public service; 2) Institutional memory in the Calif. Legislature is fading fast – thanks to the current law; and 3) the law should have given equal treatment to both the legislative houses. Instead, it's 6 years in the Assembly vs. 8 years in the Senate under the 1990 law...

...In the current battle between the YES and NO forces, an old name has resurfaced once again: Willie Brown. Back in 1990, Brown was the poster child for YES on 140 – and the GOP chant was "Get rid of Willie Brown." If Prop. 45 is approved by voters on March 5th, it's very likely that Burton

will use the law to run for another term. But if 45 is beaten, watch out. As some **Calpeek** readers know, Brown has already started collecting funds for a 2004 State Senate race. Sources say Assemblywoman Carole Migden(D-S.F.) is looking too. If Prop. 45 is defeated, a 2004 Brown vs. Migden Demo primary would be very hot...

...And so now the Demos who are supporting 45 are yelling, "Keep Willie out of Sacto." But get this. The GOPers who are opposed to Prop. 45 are now saying, "Vote NO and bring Willie back." Can you believe that? It's true. Odd thing is that about 70% of the GOP lawmakers will be endorsing NO on 45, but in the privacy of the voting booth, some **Calpeek** sources are betting their first born that most vote YES. It's just that they're afraid to speak out in favor of fixing term limits. It's like Prop. 13: a *sacred cow*. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: SUPPOSE CALIF. HAD A PRIMARY AND FEW VOTERS SHOWED UP? IT COULD HAPPEN.

Editor's note: There's a real fear among political insiders that Calif.'s March 5 primary election will experience an all time low in voter turnout. How low? In 1994, only 4.9 million Californians cast ballots. Is it possible that the March 5 primary could be lower? Here is our analysis & commentary...

...The first question is why a lower turnout? It's probably because Calif. voters are still much more focused on 9-11 than anything else. So is the Calif. news media (print as well as electronic). And there's another reason why some sources are expecting a low turnout: voters may think the primary is still in June instead of March. In fact, Mark DiCamillo of the Field Poll told **Calpeek** that in their next statewide survey (going out very soon), they will ask this question: *When do you think the next Statewide election will be?* It's a good question to ask, given the possible March or June confusion...

...What can be done to boost interest in the primary? If insiders were hoping that the first GOP gubernatorial debate might provide some fireworks to excite voters, they

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310)659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHTED BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SECRETARY OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

were mistaken. The CSU/San Jose debate was very tame. Sec. of State Bill Jones provided the best answers and certainly pushed Richard Riordan's button on a few points. Riordan wasn't that sharp and stumbled a few times. As for L.A. businessman Bill Simon Jr., his pitch was aimed at conservatives. On debate style points, Jones won. And Simon, while still refusing to go after Riordan, probably got the biggest bump in terms of momentum – but he was coming from *ground zero*. The jury is still out on Riordan. Some sources thought he looked tired and perhaps he was over-prepared for this first debate...

...The most encouraging thing about the debate was that it was carried live on many tv stations around the State. Most voters get their news about elections from *electronic sources* (broadcast-tv, cable-tv and radio). Print just isn't what it used to be, but it still provides the best in-depth coverage of issues and candidates...

...The problem is that while tv stations in the major media markets will sometimes cover top of the ticket contests, it's the down-ballot statewide candidates who get the *media shaft*. And to get 8 cameras at an L.A. news conference the week before the debate, Bill Simon had to import media star and former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani. On his own a few days later to announce his endorsement by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn., there were no cameras in L.A., but Simon did score with 4 cameras in Sacto for this same announcement. Imagine the problems that down-ballot candidates face! To get any kind of coverage these candidates will have to provide darned good photo ops – especially in L.A., where car chases get more tv coverage than politics...

...So how will down-ballot candidates do in terms of getting media coverage? Most sources say they'll struggle. The major Calif. daily newspapers will profile the down-ballot statewide races at least 1-2 times before the primary and there will be some editorial endorsements, but not much more. In terms of electronic coverage, with the exception of local PBS stations and Adelphia Cable (in L.A.), these down-ballot statewide candidates won't see many cameras. Adelphia plans to air ½ hour debates for Demos/GOPers in the contested battles for Insurance Commissioner, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller and Supt. of Public Instruction. These debates will be given to other cable operators via The Calif. Channel, meaning a potential of 6-7 million viewers will get to see some or all of these debates. Adelphia will also do ½ hour shows with Riordan, Simon and Jones – but no 4th debate as Adelphia exec Bill Rosendahl had hoped for. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: COUNTY DISTRICT ATTY. RACES.

Editor's note: In addition to Statewide, congressional and legislative primaries, 56 of the State's 58 county district attorney posts are up for grabs March 5th. There are about 9-11 really hot DA contests, including San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, Fresno, Ventura, Del Norte, Contra Costa, Santa Cruz, Mendocino and Solano counties. Here's our first report...

● **Orange Co.** – Voters in this county are getting ready for round #2 in the Tony vs. Wally battle. The Tony in this case is DA Tony Rackauckas and the Wally is Deputy DA is Wally Wade, who ran and lost to Rackauckas four years ago. Pundits and insiders say although Rackauckas has gotten some *bad press*, unless Wade can raise more than he has thus far, this election rematch is over – with the incumbent winning a 2nd term. The negative press includes the usual grumbling from the Deputy DAs, who this time endorsed Wade – a first in that prosecutors normally back the incumbent. And there have been some allegations that Rackauckas has given favorable treatment to his buddies and even to political contributors. Rackauckas denies any wrong doing. The Orange Co. Grand Jury is probing some of these allegations, but Rackauckas supporters say this more smoke than fire. One of the best issues Wade has going for him is that Rackauckas is *hated* by the anti-airport (El Toro) crowd in South O.C. The DA signed the NO on F ballot argument when F was before voters. Wade has hired Tom Shepard & Associates as his cmp. consultant. Rackauckas' fundraising has allowed him to buy most of the key slates, do direct mail and an A/V chase program. The DA's consulting team includes Gilliard, Blanning & Assoc., Adam Probolsky and Matt Cunningham...

● **San Diego Co.** – Three solid candidates have lined up to challenge first term incumbent DA Paul Pfingst – this despite the fact that crime is down in San Diego by 47% and Pfingst's felony conviction rate is the highest in the State, according to the Pfingst campaign. The challengers include deep pocketed attorney Mike Aguirre; San Diego Sup. Court Judge Bonnie Dumanis; and sr. prosecutor Mark Pettine, who stepped down as president of the Deputy DAs Assn. to challenge Pfingst...

...With so many challengers, it's hard to see Pfingst winning a majority on March 5th. The Deputy DAs Assn. has been the most vocal in their opposition to Pfingst, but the association is involved in a labor dispute with the county over wages. Regardless, by 175 to 82, the deputy DAs voted no confidence in Pfingst. Some of the older DAs are still bitter that Pfingst ousted former DA Ed Miller four years ago.

Calpeek sources say the candidate to watch is Judge Bonnie. She's got lots of support from cops, is a former deputy DA and is openly lesbian, which doesn't seem to hurt her with the law & order crowd. In terms of fundraising, she's right up there with Pfingst in the \$100,000 range. Jennifer Tierney of the Gemini Group is running the Dumanis campaign. Aguirre's effort is being run by Bill Wachob of the Campaign Group. Pettine's consultant is Rob Muelrath. As for Pfingst, Sheriff Bill Kolender and former AG Dan Lungren are backing him for reelection. So are the DA Investigators. Pfingst has again hired Larry Remer of the Primacy Group as his lead consultant. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: CALIF. LEGISLATIVE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is Part II in our continuing series of updates about key Legislative primary contests...

☒ **10th AD** – This is one of the more interesting GOP primary battles. Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti(R) decided not to seek reelection, even though he could have run one more time. Thus the key GOPers in this open seat primary are Lodi Councilman Alan Nakanishi, Elk Grove businessman Dan Kramer and Sacto-area businessman Jon Bagatelos. This AD used to be a swing district, but is now safer GOP turf. There are four Demos in the primary...

...Bagatelos, Kramer and Nakanishi have all raised solid war chests. Bagatelos has \$160,579 cash-on-hand vs. Kramer with \$130,138 vs. Nakanishi with \$122,815. But it is Nakanishi who has an edge because he has residual name ID – having run in 2000 for the State Senate against Demo Mike Machado and almost pulled the upset of the 2000 cycle. A Nov. 26-27 poll for Nakanishi (among 300 registered GOP and DTS voters by Dr. Val Smith) showed him with 41% vs. 2.7% for Bagatelos, 5.7% for Kramer and 4.0% for Ken Payne(R). But the direct mail attacks are just now starting to fly – and Nakanishi is being hit on the right by Kramer. Bagatelos is the moderate GOPer in this 3-way battle. BOE member Dean Andal(R) and U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo(R) are with Nakanishi; Pescetti, Sacto Sheriff Lou Blanas + a number of firefighter groups are with Bagatelos; while Kramer has backing from former Assemblyman Larry Bowler(R) and U.S. Rep. Doug Ose(R). Nakanishi's residual name ID gives him an edge for now, but either Kramer or Bagatelos could come on strong at the end...

☒ **36th SD** – This open seat covers the area which is now represented by *termed out* State Sen. Ray Haynes(R-Riverside). It covers both San Diego and Riverside County and is solid GOP turf. In this race between Assemblymembers Dennis Hollingsworth of Riverside and Charlene Zettel of

Poway (San Diego), it's a classic moderate(Zettel) vs. conservative(Hollingsworth). A poll for Hollingsworth by Dr. Val Smith (300 voters, Jan. 14-15) shows Hollingsworth at 27.6% vs. Zettel at 13.2%, with a huge 59.2% undecided. But Zettel has a *10-to-1* lead in cash-on-hand: Zettel has \$279,973 vs. Hollingsworth with \$29,636. Hollingsworth blames his poor fundraising on Calif.'s new campaign reform law (Prop. 34) which limits legislative contributions to just \$3,000 per person or organization. No more of these \$100,000 contributions which Hollingsworth got in 2000. Hollingsworth backers include: U.S. Reps. Issa & Bono, Sen. Haynes; the NRA; El Cajon Mayor Mark Lewis; and Assemblyman Jay La Suer. Zettel's backers include Deputy Sheriffs Assn. from San Diego and Riverside counties; San Diego POA, CA State Firefighters Assn., State Sen. Jim Battin; U.S. Rep. Duke Cunningham and Assemblyman Dave Kelley. Toss up...

☒ **36th AD Update** – Calpeek has reported on this open seat GOP primary battle once before, but there have been some new endorsements and other news. The 36th AD is now represented by George Runner(R-Lancaster), who is *termed out* and is backing his wife Sharon. The other candidate is current Assemblyman Phil Wyman, who moved to Victorville to run in this AD. There are 2 other GOPers in this primary: p/a executive Ollie McCaulley and Palmdale Councilman Mike Dispenza. Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford was considered one of the frontrunners for the 36th AD, but he has dropped out and endorsed Wyman. The mail has started and sources say this primary will be hot until the end. Money is about equal: Wyman \$129,240 c-o-h vs. \$136,151 for Runner. Wyman has got some excellent endorsements: GOP Leader Dave Cox + Assemblymembers Ashburn and Briggs; the NRA; Gun Owners of Calif. and former Gov. George Deukmejian. Runner's key supporters include the powerful CCPOA (prison guards); State Sen. Pete Knight and tons of local elected officials. Toss up...

☒ **12th SD Update** – This is one of the few competitive seats under the new remapping plan. The new numbers give Demos a 49% vs. 36% GOP registration edge. The Demo favorite is State Parks Director (and former Assemblyman) Rusty Areias. It would be a major upset if Modesto area attorney Armando Flores were to beat Areias...

...The GOP primary is more interesting because it pits hardliner Jeff Denham against former Assemblyman Peter Frusetta, a more pragmatic GOPer. Frusetta has \$213,541 c-o-h vs. \$70,868 for Denham. But Denham, who has some residual name ID too (in 2000 he lost the 28th AD to Demo Simon Salinas), got a break when another conservative, Joey Wright, dropped out and threw his support to Denham. Gun Owners of Calif. are also backing Denham,

CALPEEK – P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213

as is BOE member Dean Andal. GOP State Sen. Dick Montieth of Modesto is neutral thus far. Slight edge to Frusetta, but Denham could pull an upset. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Enron Calif. Update** – GOP gubernatorial frontrunner Richard Riordan was emphatic in the 1/22 debate that he'd not taken contributions from the bankrupt energy giant. Wrong! In 1996 he got \$500 for his Riordan for Mayor '97 campaign...

■ **Latest Governor's Race Poll** – The newest numbers are from the Public Policy Institute of Calif. (PPIC). In the GOP primary race, former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan continues to lead: 41% vs. Bill Jones at 13% and Bill Simon at 4% - among likely voters (12/26 to 1/10). But 42% of likely Republican voters are undecided – meaning this race isn't over just yet. In a match up with Gov. Gray Davis(D), Riordan wins by a 41% to 37% margin, but Davis beats both Jones (42% to 31%) and Simon (42% to 29%)...

■ **L.A.'s South Central Civil War** – Insiders originally thought L.A. Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas was a slam dunk to win the Demo primary for 48th AD, a seat now held by Assemblyman Rod Wright(D). R-T's chief rival is Mike Davis, an top deputy to L.A. Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke. Enter Magic Johnson on the side of Davis, along with Burke, L.A. Councilman Nate Holden, U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and Wright. If Johnson delivers the \$\$\$ (he has lots of friends), Davis might have a shot at an upset. On R-T's side there's incoming Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, U.S. Rep. Diane Watson(D), LAUSD member Genethia Hayes and L.A. Councilwoman Jan Perry. More next week, but it sure looks like civil war in South Central L.A....

■ **Davis Won't Set Rosenkrantz Free** – Ten days ago a State Appeals Court in L.A. ruled that Gov. Gray Davis did NOT have the absolute power to overturn a parole recommendation that would have set convicted murdered Robert Rosenkrantz free. By a 2-1 vote, the court said Davis exceeded his authority. This case is now on appeal to the CA Supreme Court – and that court has stayed Rosenkrantz's release. In 1985, Rosenkrantz was convicted of 2nd degree murder when he shot another student who threatened to expose Rosenkrantz as a homosexual to his family. Rosenkrantz ambushed his victim and shot him 10 times with an Uzi. For this Rosenkrantz got 15-to-life + 2 years for the gun violation. If Rosenkrantz had committed this same

crime today he would have been sentenced to multiple life terms (and wouldn't be ready for parole until 2025). As for the politics, Davis played it right – notwithstanding knocks from the news media and bleeding hearts. The cop groups who back Davis support the governor's decision...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these announcements...

● The new chair of the Valley Industry & Commerce Assn.(VICA) is Woodland Hills attorney Fred Gaines...

● Former Congressman Jim Rogan(R-Glendale) has been confirmed as Undersec. of Commerce for Intellectual Property – and Director of the U.S. Patent Office...

● The campaign firm of Winner/Wagner & Mandabach has been changed to Winner & Mandabach, as Ethan Wagner has left the firm. Mandabach continues as President & managing partner. The firm has offices in L.A. and DC...

● Political consultant Mark Stein has joined Hayward-based AdMail Express as a sales rep...

● Campaign consultant Cynthia Corona has moved her Dynamic Campaign Mgt. firm. New address is P.O. Box 480279, L.A. 90048...

● Sacto-based Randle Communications has moved to new offices at 2100 21st Street, Ste. B, Sacto 95818. Same phone: (916)446-6667...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Opinion research, public policy, elections and market analysis** company seeks Research Associate in Santa Monica, CA. Strong quantitative analysis and excellent writing/verbal skills needed. Work for election-oriented and public/private sector entities. Fax resume: (310)453-6562 or resumes@fmma.com.

● **Consumer Attorneys of Calif.** seeks grassroots coordinator. Candidate will possess a bachelor's degree, exceptional writing, communicating and organizing skills, and an understanding of the legislative process, campaigns and grassroots mobilization. FAX (916)442-7734...

CALPEEK's Marketplace Network is a listing of employer and employee availabilities for those engaged in campaign consulting, public affairs, public relations, government relations and legislative advocacy. The cost for each listing is \$25 for up to 40 words. Send ad copy with payment (*no invoicing*) to CALPEEK, Attn: Marketplace Network, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. For info ☎(310)659-0205...